

- Consumers shopped for everything from shoes to cars in October as retail sales rose (+1.6%)
- Property sales jumped 31.4% in 2002 in Greater Vancouver
- Canadian GDP grew (+0.3%) for the twelfth straight month

The Economy

- Retail trade in BC grew (+1.6% seasonally adjusted) in October after falling in the previous month. All provinces posted healthy gains in October, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador which experienced the only decline (-3.7%). Retail sales in Newfoundland and Labrador have remained relatively flat since the middle of 2001. Saskatchewan posted the largest increase (+3.1%) after falling for two months prior. Nationally, sales grew at about the same rate (+1.7%). Clothing and footwear were popular items in October with their sales increasing 5.1%, marking the second largest increase in nine years. Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers also jumped (+2.3%) in October.

Retailers in BC and Alberta have generally registered rising sales since the spring of 1999. Year-to-date retail sales have advanced 6.0% in British Columbia and 8.7% in Alberta from the same period of 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada

- BC origin exports rose 2.9% (seasonally adjusted) in October. Exports to the United States jumped 3.1%, while those to the rest of the world increased 2.3%.

Source: BC STATS

- The Canadian industrial product price index grew 2.2% in November compared with the same month of 2001. This is the second highest increase in eighteen months. Petroleum and coal products prices rose 16.4%, following a year-over-year increase of 7.9% in October. Manufacturers paid 11.3% more for their raw materials in November than they did in November 2001. Higher prices for

mineral fuels (+18.9%) and vegetable products (+22.4%), as well as wood products and non-ferrous metals, were mainly responsible for this rise. Animal and animal products was the only raw material index to drop (-1.3%).

Source: Statistics Canada

Police Expenditures

- Per capita police strength decreased slightly in British Columbia (-0.1%) in 2002. BC had 168 officers per 100,000 population in 2002. The national average (186) was about 25% less than the United States, England, and Wales. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (198) reported the most officers per capita, while Newfoundland and Labrador (147) had the fewest. British Columbia continues to have the highest proportion of female officers (19%) of the provinces, with a national average of 15%.

Policing costs totalled \$7.3 billion in 2001, which is equivalent to a cost of about \$234 per Canadian. This represents a 4% increase over 2000 after adjusting for inflation, the fifth consecutive annual increase.

Source: SC, 85-225-XIE, 2002

Tourism

- Room revenues fell 2.6% (seasonally adjusted) in September to \$120.9 million, due to drops in the most influential regions of the province. Both Mainland/Southwest (-2.3%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-5.3%) posted significant decreases. Revenues from establishments in Kootenay (-5.5%) also lost ground in September. These slumps could be attributed to people being sceptical of travelling one year after the terrorist attacks in the US. Despite the provincial decline,

Did you know....

In 1998/99, only about 1 in 5 British Columbia residents aged 12 or older was a current smoker, the lowest rate among all the provinces.

Northeast managed to experience a strong gain (+11.4%) as its work camps saw large gains. During the fall and winter, the work camps in the Northeast contribute a large portion to its monthly revenues, as the oil and gas industry is busiest during that period.

Revenue generated by all types of hotels in British Columbia fell in September. Large hotels (greater than 250 rooms) slipped 3.3%, while hotels with 76-150 rooms declined 6.4%. Small hotels (75 rooms or less) dropped 5.5% after five straight months of growth. Vacation rentals (+0.6%) were the only establishments that experienced an increase in revenues through September. *Source: BC STATS*

Real Estate

- In 2002, the number of attached, detached, and apartment properties sold in Greater Vancouver jumped 21.4%. Sales of apartment properties rose the most (+36.2%), despite the average price of an apartment rising 12.3% in 2002. This compares to price increases of 8.2% for detached properties, and 6.6% for attached properties.

Source: Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver

Health

- Women in Canada are more likely to have high blood pressure. In 1998/99, 13% of women aged 12 and older had been diagnosed as having high blood pressure, compared with 9% of men. The widest disparity between the sexes was among seniors aged 75 or older, where 41% of females and 28% of males had high blood pressure. Nova Scotia had the largest proportion of its population with high blood pressure (17%) while Alberta had the lowest (8%).

Women are also slightly more likely to have asthma than men. About 9% of females and 8% of males aged four and older had been diagnosed by a health professional as having asthma.

Men are more likely to be heavy drinkers (5 or more drinks on one occasion, at least 12 times per year), as 29% of males aged 12 and

older who were current drinkers, drank heavily the previous year compared with 10% of females. For all age groups, men were more likely to be regular heavy drinkers than women. The widest disparity was in young adult drinkers aged 20 to 24 where 53% of males and 23% of women were heavy drinkers.

Source: SC, 82-221-XIE, Vol. 2002, No. 2

Internet Security

- In Canada during 2000, viruses were the number one problem associated with online security. Of Canadians that used the Internet, 5% experienced some sort of breach of security, and close to 60% expressed a general concern about privacy on the Internet. Almost half of the problems with online security were due to viruses. Email or account hacking was the next largest issue, accounting for about one-third of the problems.

Source: SC, 85-558-XIE, Dec 2002

The Nation

- In October, Canadian gross domestic product grew 0.3% (seasonally adjusted) marking a 12-month stretch of consecutive increases. The rise was due to expansion in the service industry (+0.5%) as the goods-producing industry remained constant. Strong consumer demand for housing, cars, clothing, and travel-related services propelled many sectors of the economy. The new home construction industry (+0.4%) continued to benefit from low mortgage rates. Residential construction is now 19.3% higher than in October 2001. Industrial production was flat in October after a slight increase in September. Manufacturing output remained unchanged from September as gains in durable goods producers (+0.1%) offset losses of non-durable producers (-0.2%). Sawmill producers drove up production 4.1% after two months of decline. Low-cost sawmill producers increased production to try to reduce unit costs in the face of higher tariffs imposed by the United States.

Source: Statistics Canada

Infoline Issue: 03-01

January 3, 2002

Infoline Report

Issue: 03-01
Jan. 03, 2003

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Originally published in the Nov. 2002 issue of *Labour Force Statistics*. Annual subscription \$60 plus GST

Trends in Full-time and Part-time Employment in British Columbia

Introduction . . . Employment is often thought of as either full or part-time. These labels simply measure hours of work per week. For purposes of measurement, Statistics Canada classifies those who normally work 30 hours or more per week at their main job as full-time workers, and those who normally work less than 30 hours per week as part-time workers. In B.C., over the past twenty-five years both full and part-time employment has grown but part-time work has grown faster. Students aged 15 to 29 accounted for 27 per cent of all part-time workers in 2001.

Recent changes in Full and Part-time Employment . . . In Figure 1, full-time employment in B.C. fell for most of 2001 resulting in a net loss of 86,400 jobs from December 2000 to December 2001. During 2002, full-time employment rebounded upward steadily until August, before falling back slightly to November 2002. During 2002, full-time employment has risen by 47,400 (3.2 per cent) from December 2001 to November 2002. Part-time employment has been rising fairly steadily during both 2001 and 2002, with

net gains of 27,100 (6.7 per cent) in 2001 and 36,900 (8.6 per cent) to November 2002.

Full and Part-time Levels and Rate of Growth
Taking a longer-term view, Figure 2A shows that both full-time and part-time employment in B.C. have been generally increasing since 1976. Full-time employment in 2001 outnumbered part-time employment by almost 4 to 1.

The share of all employment that is part-time, sometimes called the part-time employment rate, is also displayed in Figure 2A (with the scale on the right hand axis). The part-time employment rate has generally trended upwards since 1976. However, the part-time employment rate has tended to ratchet upwards in times of weaker economic activity, then settle back down in years of economic growth (e.g. in 1989, 1995 and 2000). This suggests that after impacts of business cycles are removed, there has been a structural increase in the part-time employment rate in B.C. This has also been the case in other provinces.

Figure 1: Recent BC Full-Time and Part-Time Employment Levels by Month
Seasonally Adjusted, January 2001–November 2002

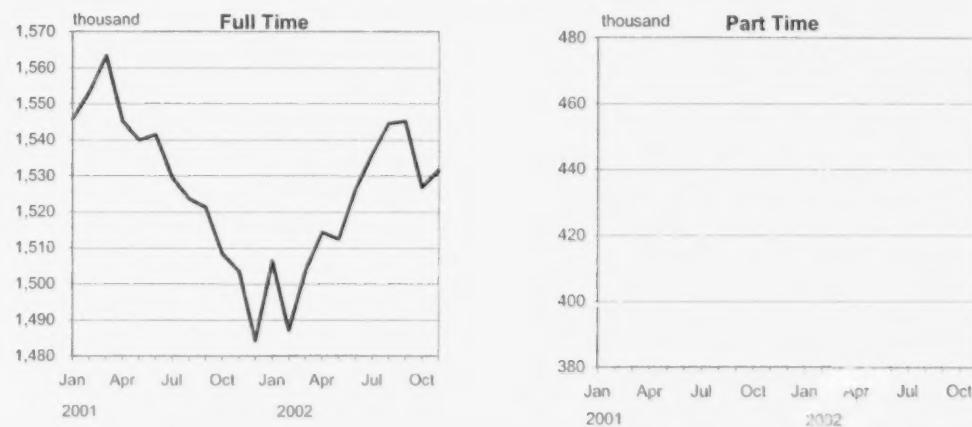


Figure 2B shows the considerable growth in part-time employment that has taken place since 1976. Part-time employment has grown about twice as fast as full-time employment. However, owing to its greater size in overall employment, the full-time component generally continues to produce double the net gains of part-time work each year.

Young people aged 15 to 29 make a valuable contribution to the part-time work force and the economy. In 2001, two out of five part-time workers in B.C. were aged 15 to 29. Almost two-thirds of these young people were students, who represented fully 27 per cent of all part-time workers.

Full and Part-time Employment for Men and Women . . . The share of all employment in B.C. that is part-time has increased from 15.1 per cent in 1976 to 21.2 in 2001 (Figure 2A). Yet, as shown in Figure 3, there are considerable differences in part-time employment rates for men and women depending on age. Women have a much higher incidence of part-time employment than men. This is particularly true for women aged 25-44 and 45+. Between 1981 and 2001, women over 45 were the only group experiencing a decline in part-time employment rate. Men aged 25 to 44 and 45+ continue to have a very low part-time employment rate, but it has increased over

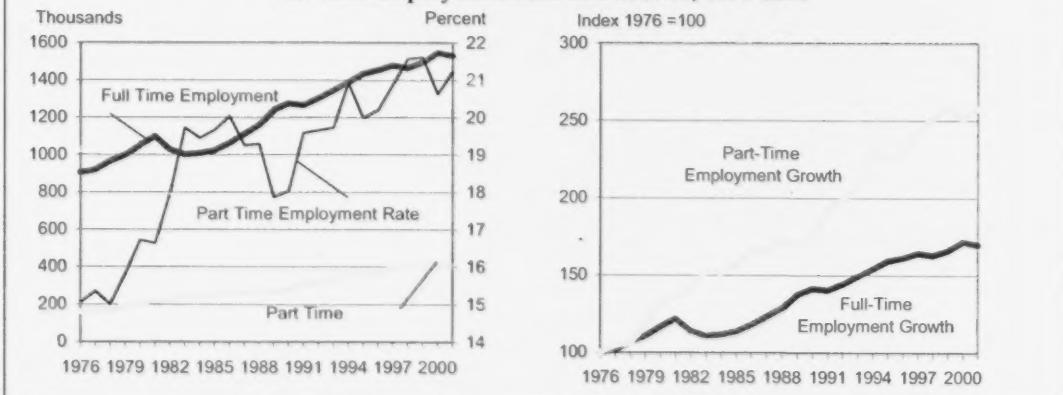
the past 20 years.

Figure 3 also shows that men and women aged 15 to 24 have consistently had the highest part-time employment rates, and their rates have grown faster than other age cohorts. Part-time employment rates for men and women age 15 to 24 were 21.0 and 34.7 per cent respectively in 1981. By 2001, these rates grew to 39.8 and 54.6 per cent respectively. Part of the rise in part-time employment rates for youth is due to their large increase in post-secondary participation.

Full and Part-time employment by industry . . .

A key dimension in examining full and part-time employment is to look at industry sectors. It is sometimes thought that service-sector part-time employment rates are above-average across most service industries. This is not uniformly the case (see Figure 4). Part-time employment rates in public administration, wholesale trade, finance, insurance, real estate & leasing, and professional, scientific & technical services were all below the B.C. average of 21.2 per cent in 2001. However, for some service-sector industries, employment is much more predominantly made up of part-time workers relative to the goods sector. Agriculture was the only industry in the goods sector that had a part-time employment rate which far exceeded the 5 to 11 per cent range of the other goods-producing industries.

Figure 2A and 2B: B.C. Full-Time and Part-Time Employment Levels, Part-time Employment Rate and Growth, 1976-2001



The two industries shown at the bottom of Figure 4 (retail trade and accommodation & food services) had the highest part-time employment rates. Together they accounted for nearly 35 per cent of all part-time employment in BC in 2001. In the large and growing traditional service-sector industries like retail trade and accommodation & food, uneven levels of demand provide a strong incentive for utilizing a part-time work force.

Such sectors also tend to employ a higher proportion of young workers, so youth tend to have

higher-than-average part-time employment rates. Further, since goods-sector employment has been dominated by men, weaker employment growth in that sector has contributed to a rise in the part-time employment rate for men.

Because women are more likely to be employed in services, their part-time employment rate has stayed relatively constant, though still at a much higher level than for men.

Figure 3: B.C. Part-Time Employment Rate, by Gender and Age

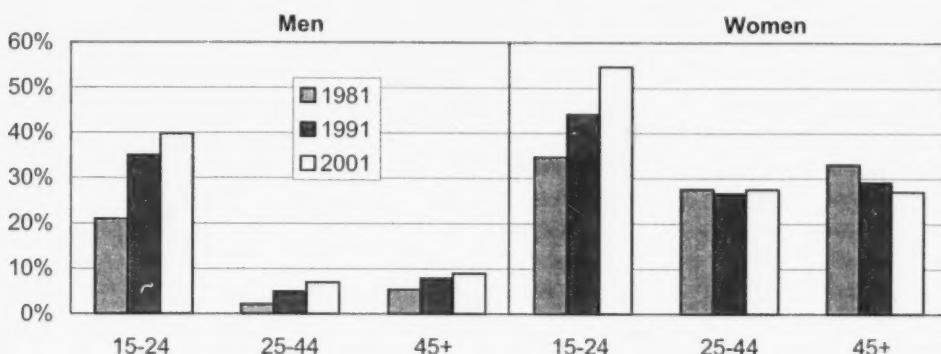
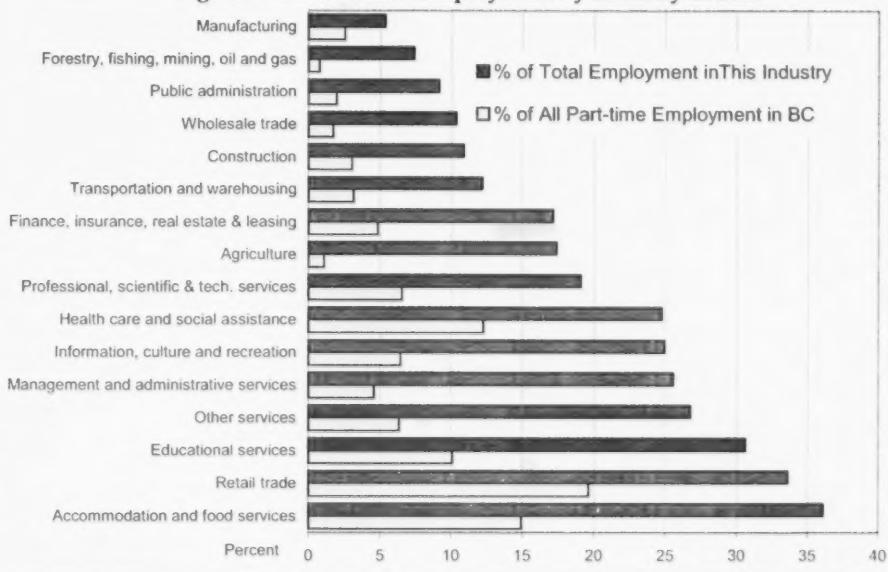


Figure 4: BC Part-time Employment by Industry in 2001

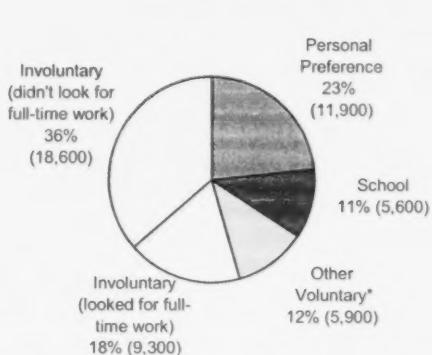
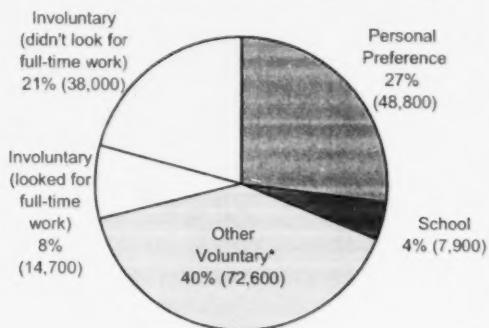
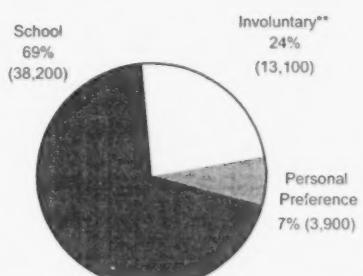
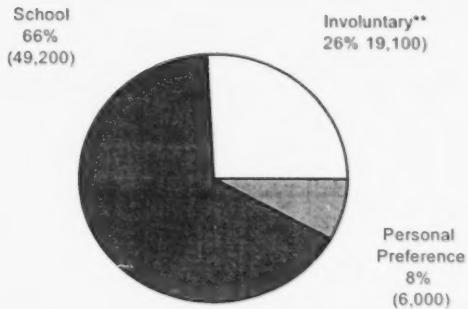


Reasons for Working Part Time . . . Participation in part-time employment has in some cases been *voluntary*. Workers choose to work part-time because they prefer it, or it may better accommodate individual circumstances such as participation in education or family responsibilities. Individuals who are working part-time but indicate they would prefer full-time work are considered to be working part-time *involuntarily*.

Figure 5 shows some interesting differences between the reasons men and women work part-time in B.C. for 2001. The majority of men aged 25-54 who work part-time (54 per cent) indicated that they would prefer to work full-time and are thus considered to be working part-time *involuntarily*. However two-thirds of this group did not look for full-time work. Women aged 25-54 who would prefer to work full-time represented only 29 per cent of all women who work part-time. However, because there are so many more women than men who work part-time, there are more women (52,700) working part-time involuntarily than men (27,900). Almost three quarters of women who worked part-time involuntarily, did not look for full-time work.

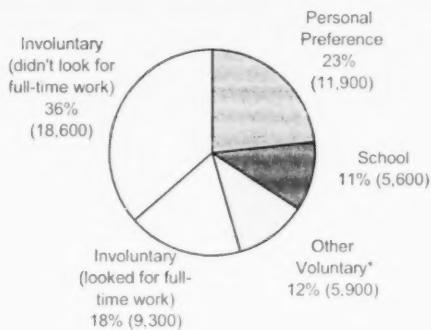
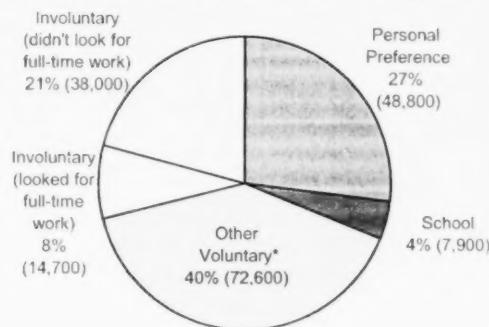
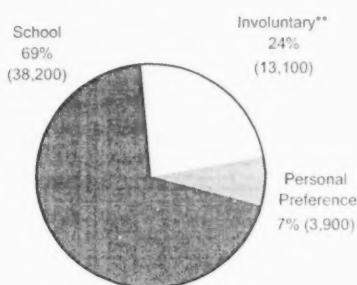
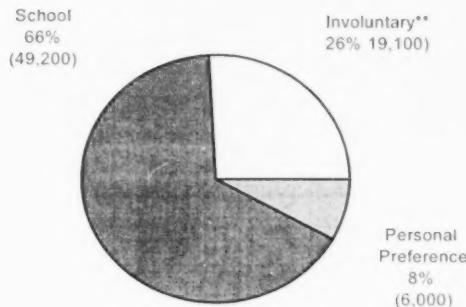
There are a variety of reasons why men and women aged 25-54 choose to voluntarily work part-time. About one quarter of both men and women prefer to work part-time by personal preference. Another reason cited for working part-time is so that individuals may attend school. Other reasons for choosing to work part-time include personal illness or disability, caring for children and other personal or family responsibilities such as attending to an elderly relative. This last group of "other reasons" represents the main reason why women aged 25-54 work part-time. Fully 72,600 (40 per cent) of women aged 25-54 cited this reason for working part-time compared to 5,900 (12 per cent) of men.

Reasons for working part-time differ for workers aged 15-24. Over 65 per cent of both men and women of this age group cite attending school as the main reason for working part-time. Another quarter of them would prefer to work full-time. Unlike older women, young women did not cite caring for children or other family responsibilities as a main reason for working part-time

Figure 5: Reasons for Part-time Employment by Age and Gender in B.C. - 2001**Men Age 25-54 (Total 51,300)****Women Age 25-54 (Total 182,000)****Men Age 15-24 (Total 55,200)****Women Age 15-24 (Total 74,300)**

* Includes persons who chose to work part-time for health reasons, to care for children, or other personal or family responsibilities.

** Includes persons who looked for full-time work in the previous month but were unsuccessful due to economic conditions or other reasons. Also included are persons who would prefer to be working full-time but did not look for full-time work because of their perceptions of unfavourable economic conditions or for other reasons.

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Infoline

January 3, 2003



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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		Jul 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC		4,141.3	1.0
Canada		31,414.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME			
(BC - at market prices)		2001 Revised	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		130,859	1.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)		123,912	-0.2
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)		30,252	-1.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)		19,513	1.2
TRADE (\$ millions)			% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Oct		2,936	2.2
Merchandise Exports (seas. adjusted) Oct		2,550	2.9
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Oct		3,394	1.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)		Nov '02	% change
BC		118.9	2.1
Canada		120.8	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)			% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		Nov '02	
Labour Force - BC		2,183	0.1
Employed - BC		1,997	-0.1
Unemployed - BC		186	2.8
		Oct '02	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		8.5	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		7.5	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Jan 1/03	Jan 2/02
Prime Business Rate		4.50	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		4.90	4.60
- 5 year		6.70	6.85
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Jan 1/03	Jan 2/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$		1.5796	1.5979
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)		0.6339	0.6260
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE			% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		Nov '02	
BC		678.18	4.2
Canada		653.97	2.5
SOURCES:			
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade,	} Statistics Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics			
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca			

Released this week by BC STATS

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 3rd Quarter 2002
- Tourism Sector Monitor, December 2002

Next week

- No subscription releases